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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

November 8, 2004

Receiver: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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Sender: Lara M. Nelson for Justin A. White

Our Ref. No.: IGT1P116

Re: Application No. 09/631,885

Pages Including Cover Sheet(s): 3

MESSAGE:

Please deliver the attached Summary of Examiner Interview to Examiner Arthur Duran.

Please enter this in the file.

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NOV 08 2004

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Richard ROWE

Application No.: 09/631,855

Filed: August 3, 2000

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
VOUCHER SORTING AND
RECONCILIATION IN SOFT
COUNT PROCESS

Attorney Docket No.: IGT1P116/P-347

Examiner: Arthur Duran

Group: 3622

Confirmation No.: 9950

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by
facsimile to fax number 703-872-9306 to the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office on November 8, 2004.

Signed: 

Lara M. Nelson

SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Examiner is hereby acknowledged and thanked for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview of November 8, 2004 between Examiner Duran and the undersigned attorney. The pending claims, Final Office Action and prior art were all discussed during this telephonic interview, with particular focus on the meaning of "cash voucher" and the teachings of the primary prior art reference used, U.S. Patent No. 5,761,647 to Boushy ("Boushy").

Agreement was not reached with respect to any of the rejected claims or a number of issues in the case. Although it was pointed out that "functional equivalents" are an improper


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grounds upon which to base a Section 102 anticipatory rejection, no explanation was given as to the maintaining of the present § 102 rejections on this basis. It was also confirmed that the "player tracking points" of Boushy are being used as the "functional equivalents" of the claimed "cash voucher." It was agreed that such player tracking points are *intangible* items, and also that Claim 1 would be allowable over Boushy if this "cash voucher" of Claim 1 were a tangible item. No agreement could be reached over an inherent tangible nature of the "cash voucher," however, despite numerous attempts to demonstrate such a reading from many specification passages and claim elements. Also, no reason was given to rebut a proposed tangible only nature for the cash voucher of independent Claim 14, which states, "retrieving intermingled cash vouchers and bill monies" and "sorting said cash vouchers from said bill monies." It was simply maintained that these cash vouchers could be intangible and that the pending § 102 rejection remains proper.

It is believed that no fees are due at this time. Should any fee be required for any reason related to this document or application, however, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0388, referencing Docket No. IGT1P116. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below with any questions or concerns relating to this document or application.

Respectfully Submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Justin A. White, Esq.
Reg. No. 48,883

Date: November 8, 2004

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